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MEMORANDUM FOR VADM JOHN POINDEXTER
THE WHITE HOUSE

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Subject: Soviet Withdrawal from Afghanistan: Exposing the
Deception

Intelligence analysts agree that the combat units the Soviets began withdrawing from Afghanistan on October 15 (60 tanks and the greater part of two motorized rifle regiments) were largely introduced into Afghanistan subsequent to Gorbachev's July 28 Vladivostok speech announcing the withdrawal of six regiments from Afghanistan. In an effort to expose this deception in time to blunt any gains the Soviets hope to make in the UN General Assembly debate and vote on the annual Afghanistan resolution (November 4-5), the following plan of action was developed at an interagency meeting on October 22.

The Ambassadors and DCM's of the following countries are being invited, per the following schedule, for one hour INR briefings in the Department.

October 28: Pakistan - 1400
NATO, Australia, Japan - 1500
China - 1600

October 29: ASEAN - 1000
GCC and Egypt - 1100
India - 1200

In New York, in coordination with the Pakistani UN permrep, a similar set of briefings is being arranged for other UN mission permreps, UN officials, and visiting principals who may be in town. In addition, the text of the briefing will be relayed to all diplomatic and consular posts for briefing host governments, as appropriate.

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On Thursday, October 30, DOD will hold a press briefing using the most up-to-date, releasable information. An on-the-record statement describing the state of events will be read followed by a background Q&A session. [REDACTED] (C)(1) (a)(5)

By holding the briefings during the last week of the month, we hope to avoid any possible backsliding by the Soviets who have announced that withdrawals will be complete by the end of October. An on-the-record press briefing on Thursday, October 30, will allow the press to develop stories in time for Friday newspapers as well as provide grist for the mill for the regular Friday press briefing in Moscow by Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gerasimov. In addition, this timetable should provide foreign officials sufficient time [REDACTED] (C)(1) (a)(5) prior to the UN General Assembly vote on Afghanistan, November 5.

Nicholas Platt
Executive Secretary

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